

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 8, 2005.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

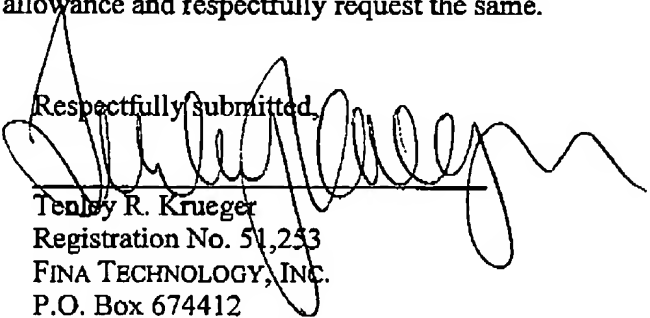
Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,433,092, U.S. Patent No. 6,166,099, U.S. Patent No. 6,274,641, U.S. Patent No. 6,420,444 or U.S. Patent No. 6,608,141 (collectively referred to as *Krupinski*).

As discussed in the interview, *Krupinski* nowhere teaches or discusses the gel to rubber ration (G/R) increasing as the swell index increases. In fact, conventional practice is quite the opposite, as demonstrated by *Impact Polystyrene: Factors Controlling the Rubber Efficiency*, E.R. Wagner and L.M. Robeson, Rubber Chem. Technology, Vol. 43, pp 1129-1137 (1970), submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement to follow.

However, the claimed embodiments recite the unexpected result of recovering a copolymerized product that has a G/R that increases as swell index increases. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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